

McKEEVER

BALDEON

SOTOMAYOR

NOMAD

GIRL WITHOUT A WORLD



FROM THE SECRET FILES OF RIKKI BARNES A.K.A. **NOMAD**...

Dear Journal,

High school's not supposed to be easy. I get that, but I think some cosmic lunch lady served me an extra helping of responsibility-laced mashed potatoes. Included on my metaphorical tray:

after school job? ✓

Mediocre status in the hierarchy of coolness? ✓

Overbearing teachers? ✓

See, I've got all the normal high school stuff going on, but then I've got these other things going on, too...

Stuck in another universe as a non-descript teenager, when you used to be Captain America's ridiculously awesome sidekick? ✓

Having the blossoming friendship with John, your would-be brother of this universe, wrecked because he totally started macking on you? ✓

Discovering your teacher's actually a super villain named Professor Power who's working with the "Secret Empire"? (whoever they are) ✓

I did some digging, which led to some getting captured--oops--and learned firsthand how Power had been brainwashing select students to do his bidding. The unaffected students went along with it because they wanted to fit in (high school...go figure).

All of the students (including John) were acting on the words of (surprisingly UNbrainwashed) class presidential candidate Desmond Daniels, who just wanted the student body to do their civic duty. After he won the election, the students rioted on Prof P's orders--which wasn't very civic-y or dutiful of them.

My Cap in the good ol' days



Professor Power: lamest name ever.



Civil disobedience is suddenly hipper than skinny jeans

Into the World

Conclusion of NOMAD: Girl Without a World

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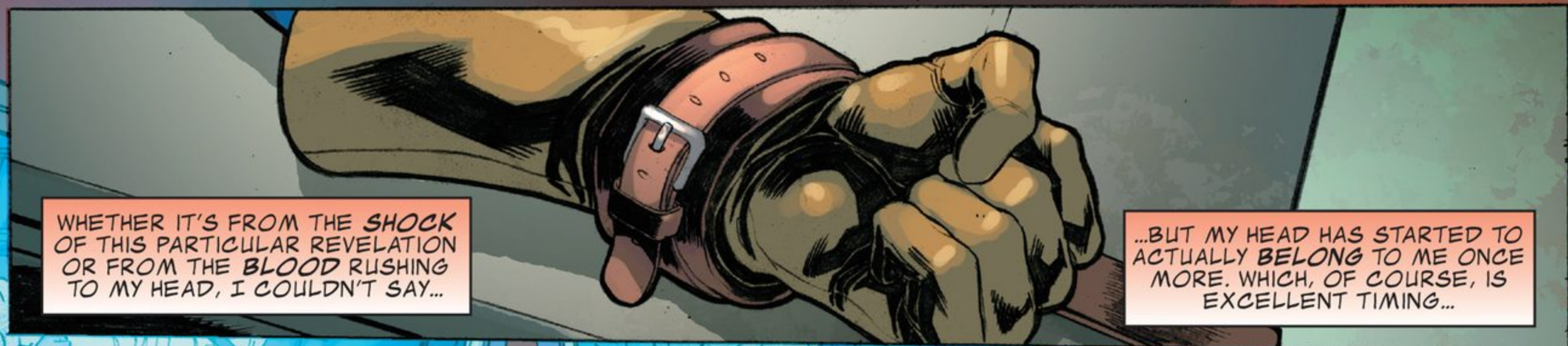
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THIS IS ME, HAVING RECENTLY
LEARNED THAT MY BEARDED
POLI-SCI TEACHER IS, IN REALITY,
A CLEAN-SHAVEN SUPER VILLAIN.



WHETHER IT'S FROM THE **SHOCK**
OF THIS PARTICULAR REVELATION
OR FROM THE **BLOOD** RUSHING
TO MY HEAD, I COULDN'T SAY...

...BUT MY HEAD HAS STARTED TO
ACTUALLY **BELONG** TO ME ONCE
MORE. WHICH, OF COURSE, IS
EXCELLENT TIMING...



...SINCE PROFESSOR POWER
AND HIS **MAD DOG** ARE
ALL SET TO PUT AN END TO
MY ANOMALOUS EXISTENCE.

IT'S
HAPPENED.

THE STUDENT
BODY HAS GONE
MAD.



RIGHTEOUSNESS HAS
DEVOLVED INTO ANGER.
THEIR **SOLIDARITY** IS LITTLE
MORE THAN **ORGANIZED**
CHAOS NOW.

THIS IS
WORSE THAN I'D
FEARED.

IT MAY NOT
BE THE MOST
DESIRABLE OUTCOME,
PROFESSOR...



...BUT WE'VE COME CLOSE ENOUGH
IN PUBLIC BETA THAT WE FEEL
WE CAN SIMPLY ADJUST ON
THE FLY AS WE EXPAND
THE PROGRAM.

OUTRAGEOUS!
WE HAVE TO PLACE
THE ENTIRE THING
ON HOLD!

DON'T YOU
SEE? THE **SECURITY** OF
OUR EXISTENCE HAS BEEN
COMPROMISED! THERE
WILL BE INQUIRIES,
INVESTIGATIONS--



RRR?

YES. I
HEARD IT,
TOO.









OUR VOICES
MATTER!

SURE HOPE
YOU GOT YOUR
COMPLIANCE GEAR
READY, MIKE.



GEEZ, TEDDY,
THIS IS INSANE. MY
BROTHER'S KID GOES
TO THIS SCHOOL!

YEAH, WELL,
NEPHEW OR NO
NEPHEW, THEY'RE
BREAKING THE LAW.
WE OUGHTA
BE MAKING
ARRESTS.

BUT NO,
WE GOT PROTOCOL.
CONTAIN 'EM TILL EITHER
THEY CALM DOWN OR
ESCALATE--



WHOA!



YOU WANNA
SILENCE OUR VOICES
'CAUSE OUR VOICES
GOT POWER!

YOU GUYS
WANNA BE THE
ONLY ONES
WITH POWER!



WE ARE
AWAKE! AND WE
ARE STRONG!

STRONG!!



THIS IS
WRONG. THIS IS
ALL WRONG.

DESMOND
NEVER ADVOCATED
CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR AND
VIOLENCE...! HE ISN'T
ABOUT THAT.

YOU GOT
ME TO BELIEVE
IN THIS CRAP, NAT,
AND NOW I'M GONNA
GET TASED BY
THE COPS!

IT'S SURMAN.
HE'S THE ONE.



SURMAN, ELLIE...THEY'VE
BEEN TWISTING DESMOND'S
MESSAGE. STUFF LIKE ACTIVISM
BECOMES REBELLION, AND
HELPLESSNESS...

THAT
GETS TURNED
INTO RIGHTEOUS
ANGER.



I KNOW
'CAUSE I BELIEVED
IT FOR A WHILE. I
WANTED TO
BELIEVE IT.



WE HAVE TO
STOP THIS BEFORE
WE ALL GET TEAR
GASSED, MACED
AND TASED.

OH GOD!
OH GOD!

OH,
YEAH. SURE.
SIMPLE!

WHAT ARE
WE SUPPOSED TO DO?
TALK A LITTLE SENSE
INTO THEM?



THAT'S
EXACTLY WHAT
WE CAN DO.

I KNOW
SURMAN WELL
ENOUGH. THINK I CAN
GET THROUGH TO HIM.
AND IF HE LISTENS
TO REASON...

I'VE GOT
ELLIE.

WANTED
dead or alive
www.furyfiles.com

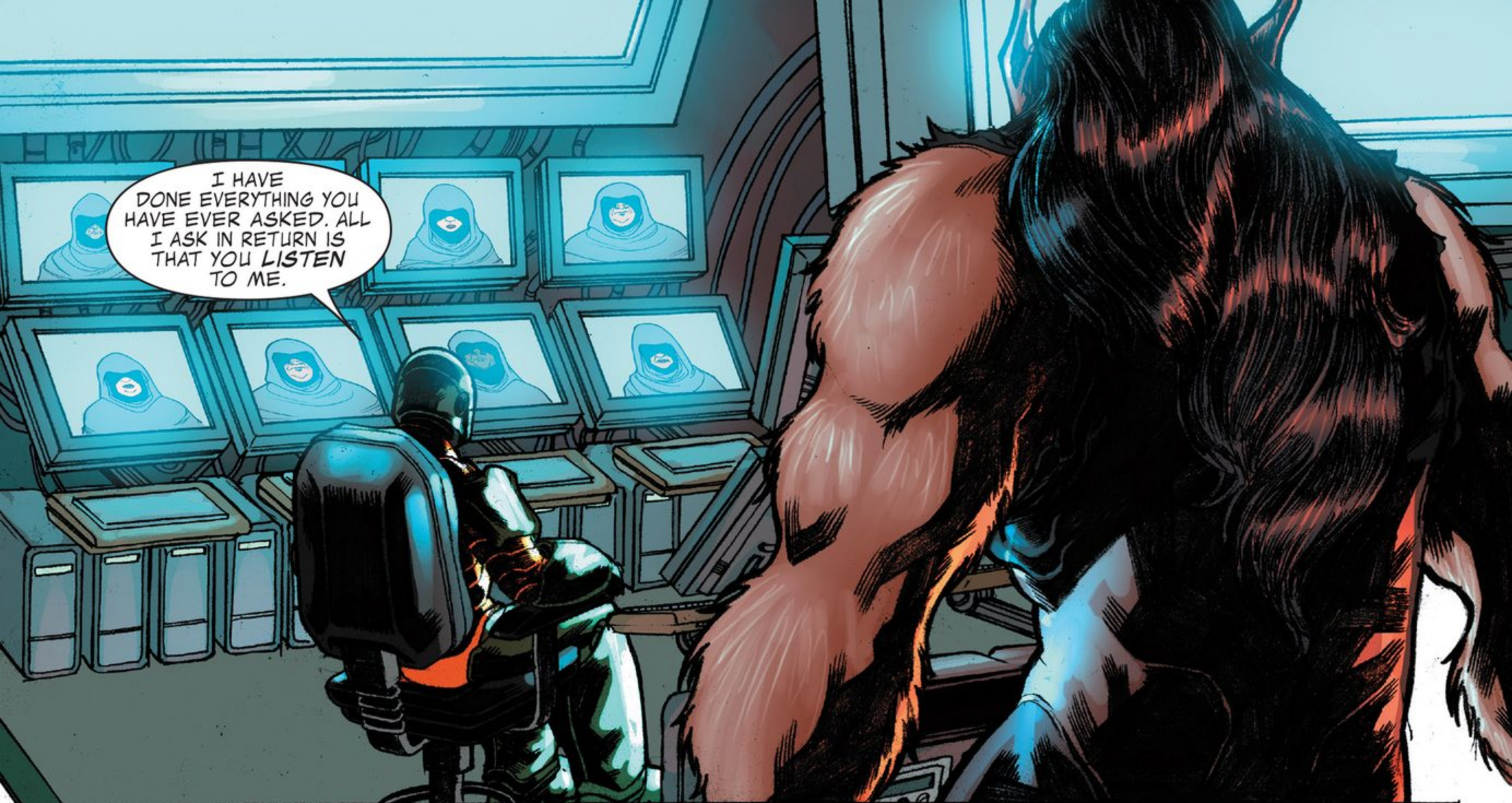




MIND IF WE TAKE A CRACK AT RIOT CONTROL?

AND BY "WE" SHE MEANS HERSELF AND THE

YOUNG AVENGERS



I HAVE DONE EVERYTHING YOU HAVE EVER ASKED. ALL I ASK IN RETURN IS THAT YOU LISTEN TO ME.



WE HAVE LISTENED. EVEN NUMBER ONE HAS. OUR FINAL DECISION IS TO PROCEED.

WHAT IS THE POINT OF HIRING ME FOR MY EXPERTISE WHEN YOU CHOOSE TO BLINDLY IGNORE IT??

OUR FINAL DECISION IS TO PROCEED, PROFESSOR.

WE'RE CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF CLONING YOUR SYSTEMS...

...AFTER WHICH YOU AND MAD DOG ARE TO FULLY INCINERATE THIS FACILITY AND THEN REPORT TO THE ISLAND TO ANSWER FOR YOUR FAILURES.

TO ANSWER--?



YOU BOTH LET THE GIRL ESCAPE. AND AS YOU YOURSELF STATED, YOUR PUBLIC BETA NOW THREATENS TO MAKE OUR PRESENCE KNOWN.

YOU MEAN THE PUBLIC BETA YOU CONSIDER SUCCESSFUL ENOUGH TO FORGE AHEAD WITH?

AND YOU CONTINUE TO QUESTION US. AN UNFORTUNATE NEW TRAIT, PROFESSOR.

I SEE...



WHAT DO YOU SAY, ROBERT? DO AS THE SECRET EMPIRE DEMANDS AND THEN ALLOW THEM TO PUNISH US FOR IT...

NOW JUST A--
DESTROY.

...OR DESTROY IT ALL? RAZE EVERYTHING IN THIS ROOM RIGHT NOW?

YES.
YES, I THOUGHT SO.





AIKEN GARVEY
STUDENTS, PLEASE
HEAR ME OUT!

THIS ISN'T
THE WAY! THIS ISN'T
WHAT DESMOND DANIELS
WOULD WANT!



YOU THINK THIS
IS HIS GRAND VISION
OF CIVIC DUTY?

YOU THINK
I CARE? OUR VOICES
ARE FINALLY BEING HEARD,
DUDE. WE FINALLY
GET A SAY.



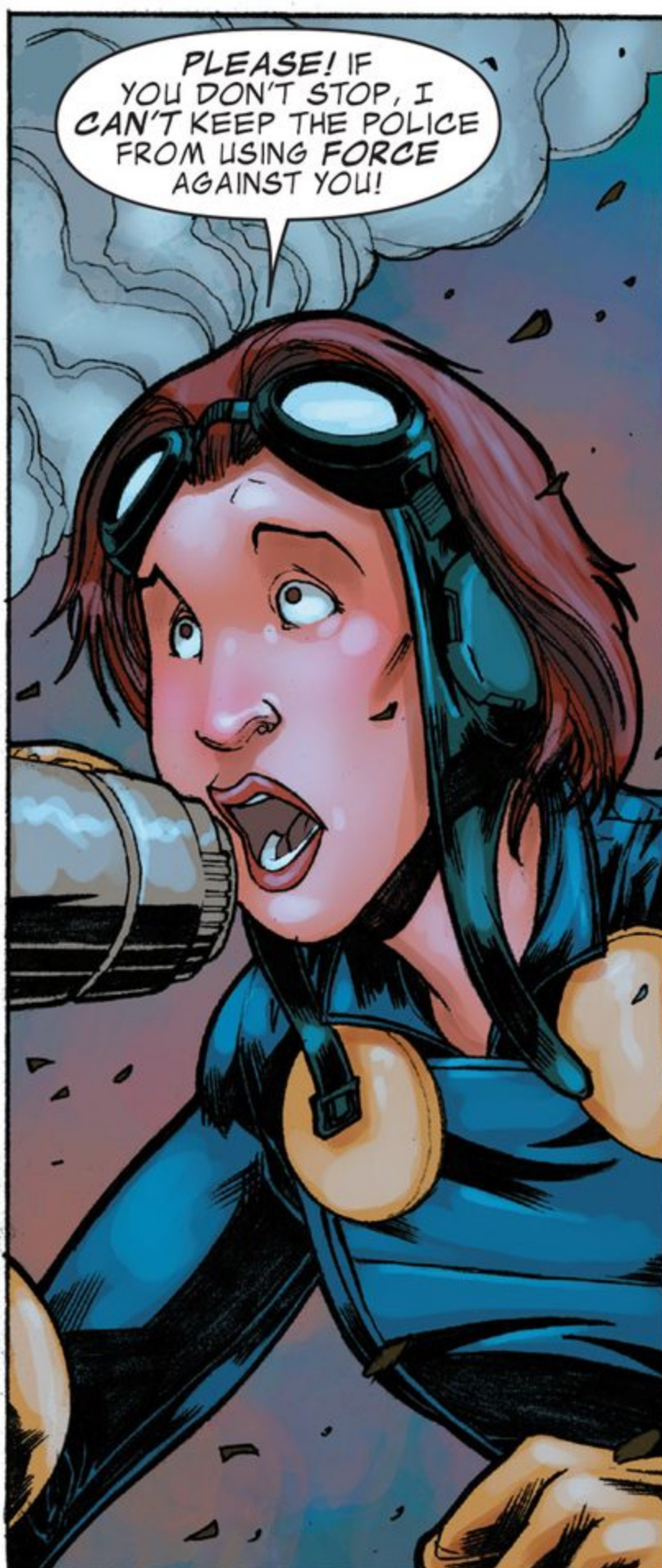
THE ONLY
RESULTS OF YOUR
RIOTING WILL BE MORE
REGULATIONS AND LESS
OF A VOICE! IS THAT
WHAT YOU WANT?



WE'RE MINORS,
SURMAN. WE AREN'T
DUE A SAY.

THAT DOESN'T
MATTER. DR. POWERS
SAYS OUR VOICES CAN
CHANGE THE WORLD.
MY VOICE.

AND I
BELIEVE HIM
'CAUSE I HAVE
SOMETHING TO SAY,
AND THIS TIME,
FINALLY...



PLEASE! IF
YOU DON'T STOP, I
CAN'T KEEP THE POLICE
FROM USING FORCE
AGAINST YOU!



...EVERYONE'S
GONNA LISTEN.

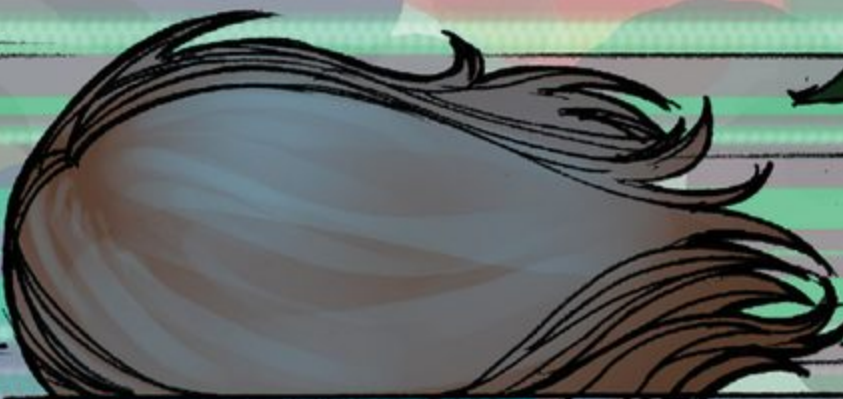


PLEASE
LISTEN

TO HER!

SHE'S
RIGHT!

THIS...



...IS NOT
THE WAY!



THIS IS...

OF ALL
THE THINGS I
COULD HAVE IMAGINED
COMING FROM MY
CANDIDACY, THIS
IS...IT'S...



IT'S A
TRAGEDY.

I BELIEVE IN THE
TENETS OF MY PLATFORM.
I DO BELIEVE IN MORALISTIC
INTEGRITY AND CIVIC
ACTIVISM. I DO.

BUT WHAT'S
MORALISTIC ABOUT
SETTING FIRES AND HURTING
PEOPLE? WHAT'S EVEN THE POINT
OF RIOTING WHEN WE'VE
ALREADY WON?

THIS ISN'T
ACTIVISM--IT'S
JUST...CELEBRATION
AS AN EXCUSE FOR
VIOLENCE.



THIS
WHOLE THING,
I NEVER...

I'M JUST
A KID SOME
STUDENTS TALKED
INTO RUNNING.

I DON'T...
I DON'T WANT
THIS.

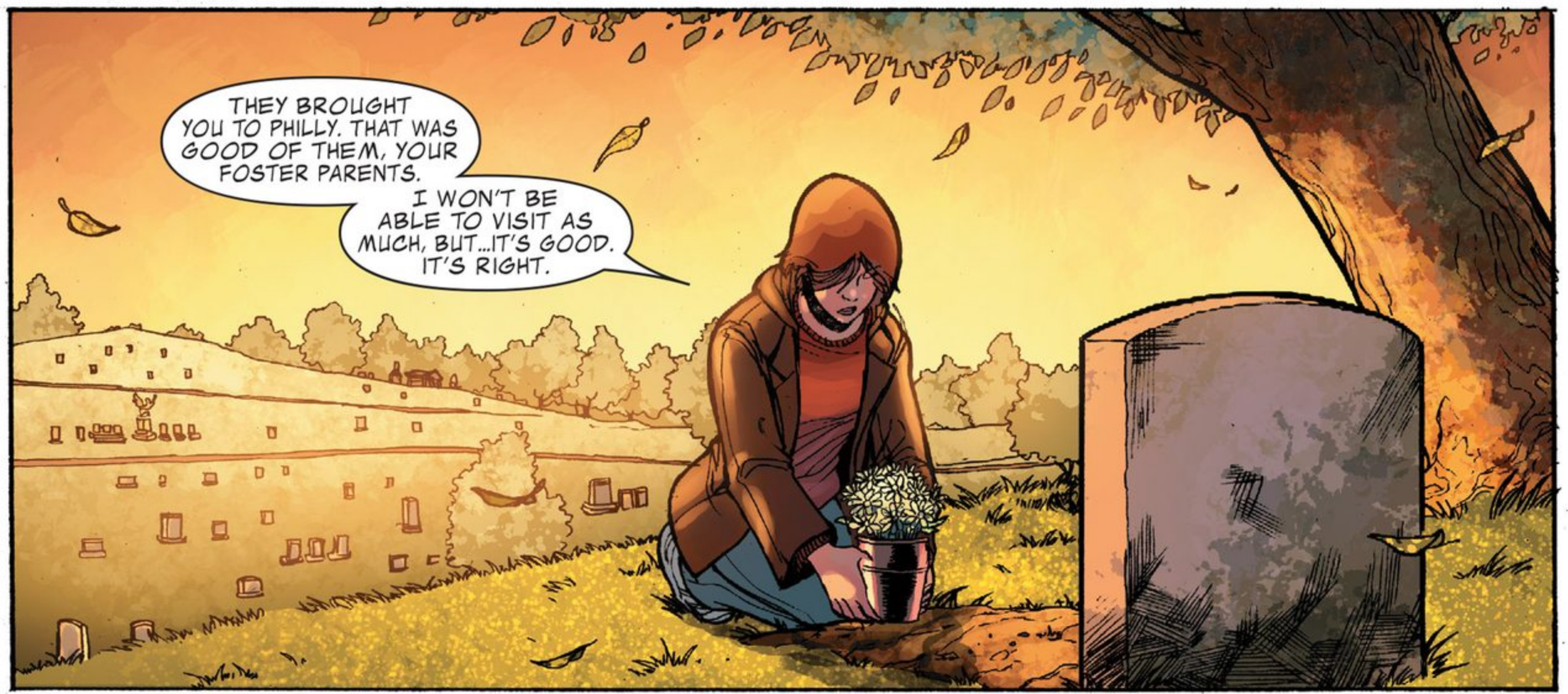


I RESIGN.









THEY BROUGHT YOU TO PHILLY. THAT WAS GOOD OF THEM, YOUR FOSTER PARENTS.

I WON'T BE ABLE TO VISIT AS MUCH, BUT...IT'S GOOD. IT'S RIGHT.



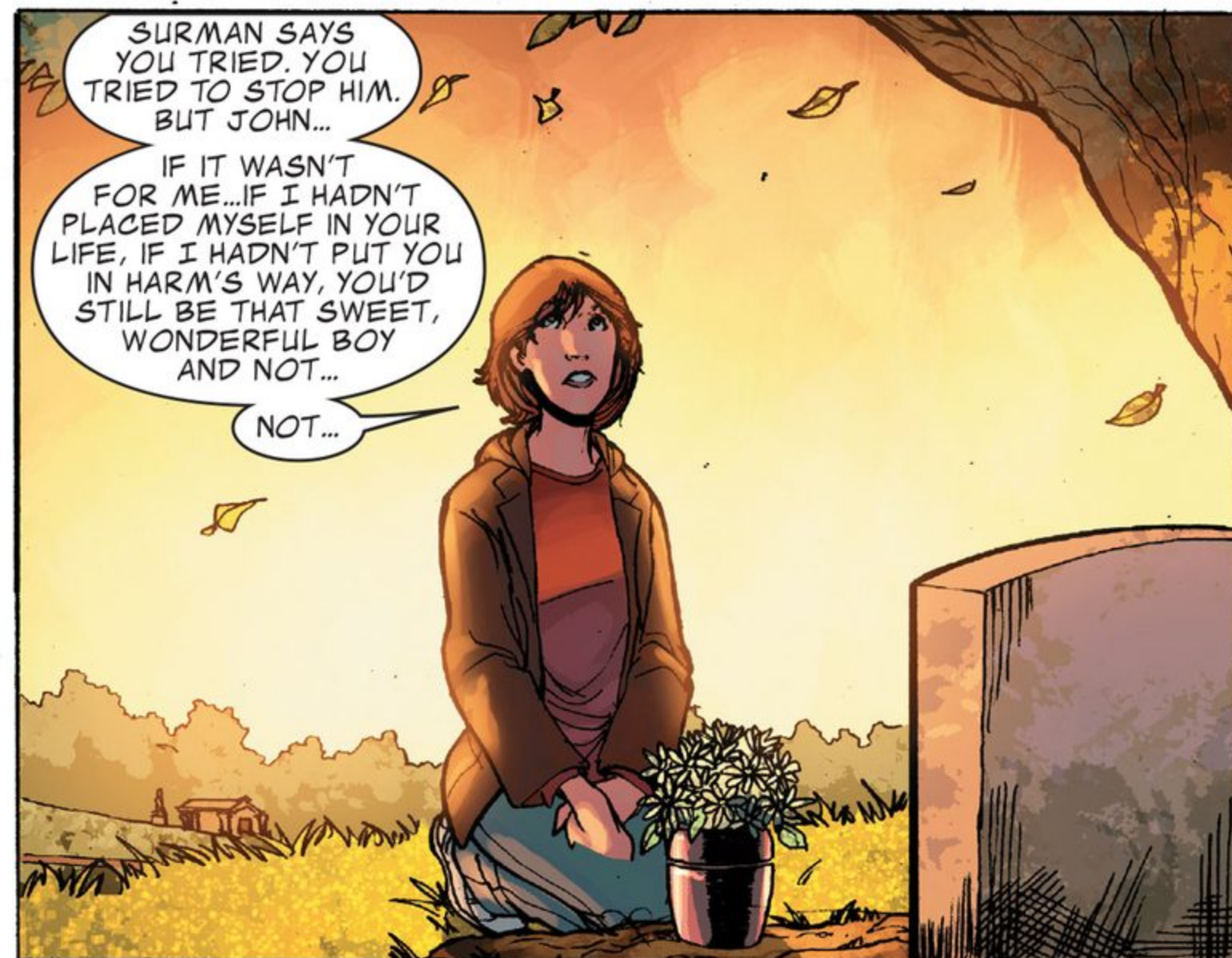
MATT SURMAN'S IN A MENTAL HOSPITAL. SOUNDS LIKE THE MIX OF TROUBLES AND FORCED MENTAL CONDITIONING PUT HIM OVER THE EDGE.

I HOPE THEY CAN HELP HIM. THIS WASN'T HIS FAULT, YOU KNOW?

DOCTOR POWERS OR PROFESSOR POWER OR WHATEVER...HIS PLACE UNDER THE SCHOOL WAS NOTHING BUT RUBBLE. DID DAMAGE TO THE SCHOOL, WHICH I GUESS DOESN'T MATTER SINCE THE SCHOOL'S BEEN CLOSED A COUPLE WEEKS BECAUSE OF...WHAT HAPPENED.

PATRIOT HAD VISION GO THROUGH THE WRECKAGE DOWN THERE WITH THAT PHASING THING HE DOES...

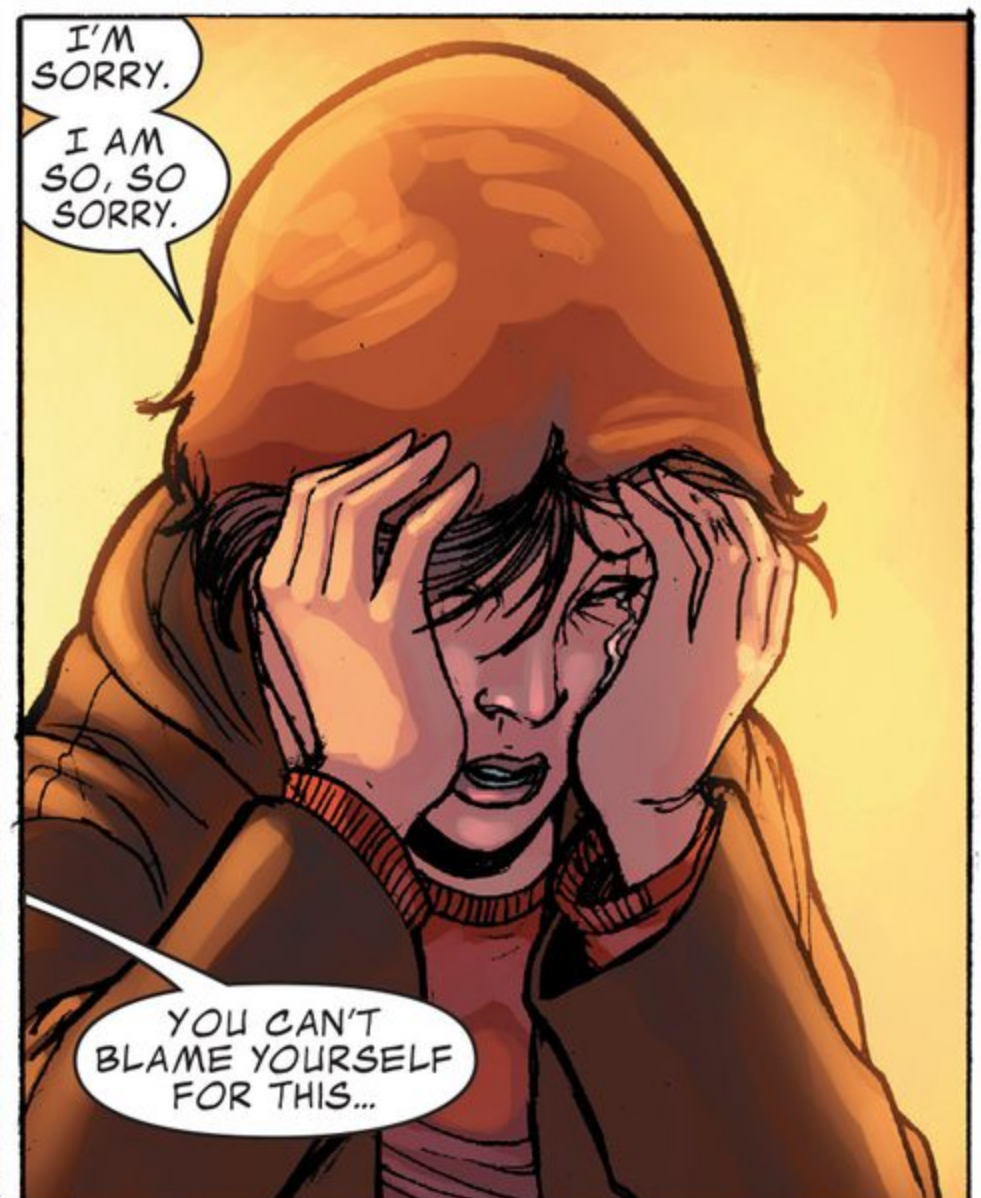
NO BODIES. NO LEADS.



SURMAN SAYS YOU TRIED. YOU TRIED TO STOP HIM. BUT JOHN...

IF IT WASN'T FOR ME...IF I HADN'T PLACED MYSELF IN YOUR LIFE, IF I HADN'T PUT YOU IN HARM'S WAY, YOU'D STILL BE THAT SWEET, WONDERFUL BOY AND NOT...

NOT...



I'M SORRY.

I AM SO, SO SORRY.

YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF FOR THIS...



...YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?



IT WAS THE EVIL DEEDS OF OTHERS THAT LED TO THIS TRAGEDY. AND, ULTIMATELY, YOUR BROTHER'S DECISION TO STAND AGAINST THOSE DEEDS.

THE SAME AS YOU YOURSELF DECIDE EVERY DAY.



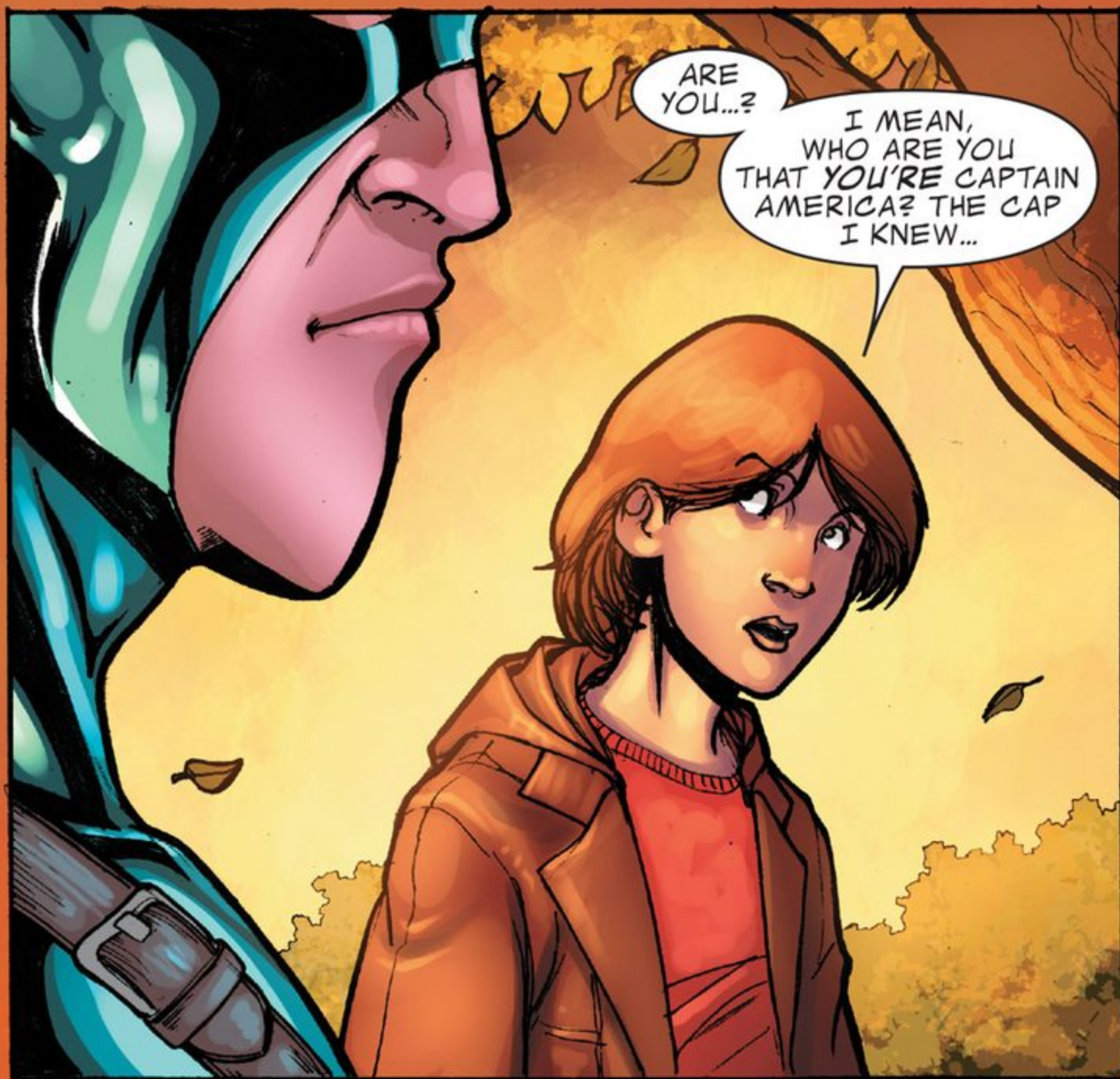
PATRIOT TELLS ME YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE SACRIFICING YOUR LIFE TO SAVE YOUR WORLD, AND THAT'S HOW YOU WOUND UP HERE.

WOULD YOU HAVE YOUR FRIENDS BLAMING THEMSELVES FOR YOUR ACTIONS?

NO, I DIDN'T THINK SO.



BARNES.
THAT'S A
FINE NAME.



ARE
YOU...?
I MEAN,
WHO ARE YOU
THAT YOU'RE CAPTAIN
AMERICA? THE CAP
I KNEW...



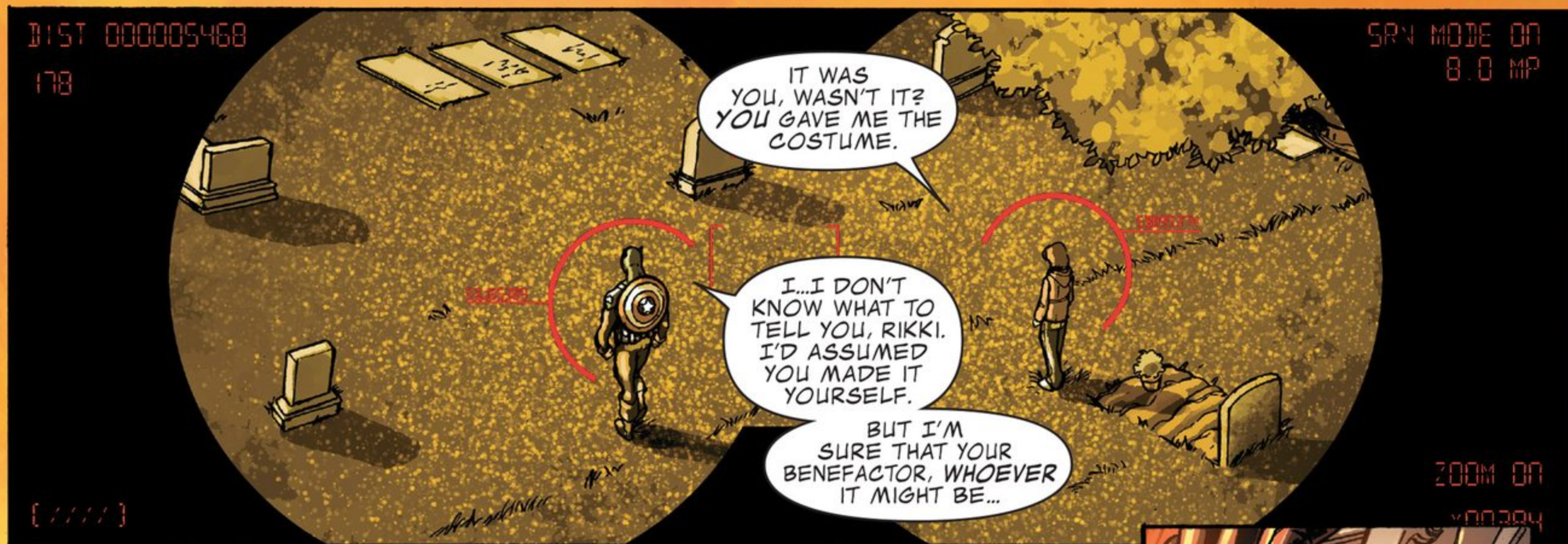
HE WAS A
GREAT MAN. I'M
VERY LUCKY TO HAVE
KNOWN HIM.

I COULD
NEVER TRULY
REPLACE HIM,
BUT I'M DOING
MY BEST
TO TRY.



I HOPE
YOU'LL CONTINUE
TO DO THE SAME
AS NOMAD.

WAIT--



IT WAS
YOU, WASN'T IT?
YOU GAVE ME THE
COSTUME.

I...I DON'T
KNOW WHAT TO
TELL YOU, RIKKI.
I'D ASSUMED
YOU MADE IT
YOURSELF.

BUT I'M
SURE THAT YOUR
BENEFACTOR, WHOEVER
IT MIGHT BE...

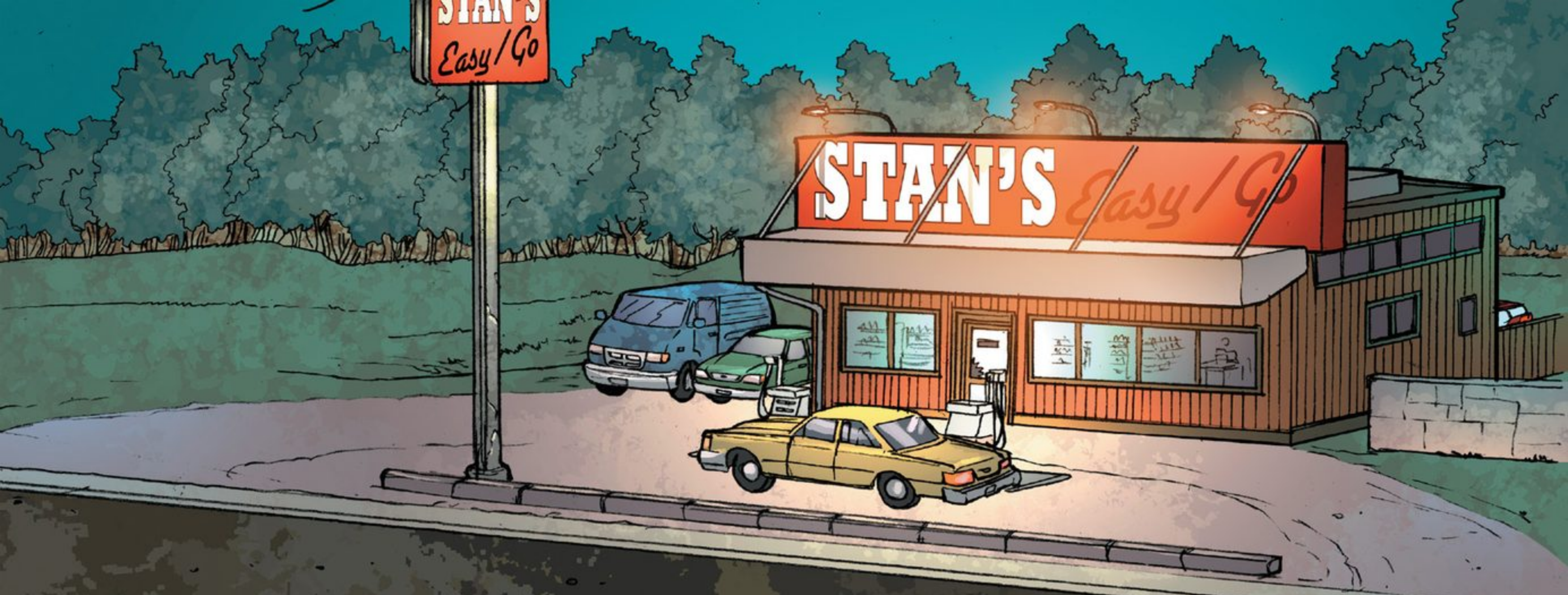
SRV MODE ON
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ZOOM ON



...IS MORE THAN
HAPPY WITH THE CHOICE
THEY MADE.





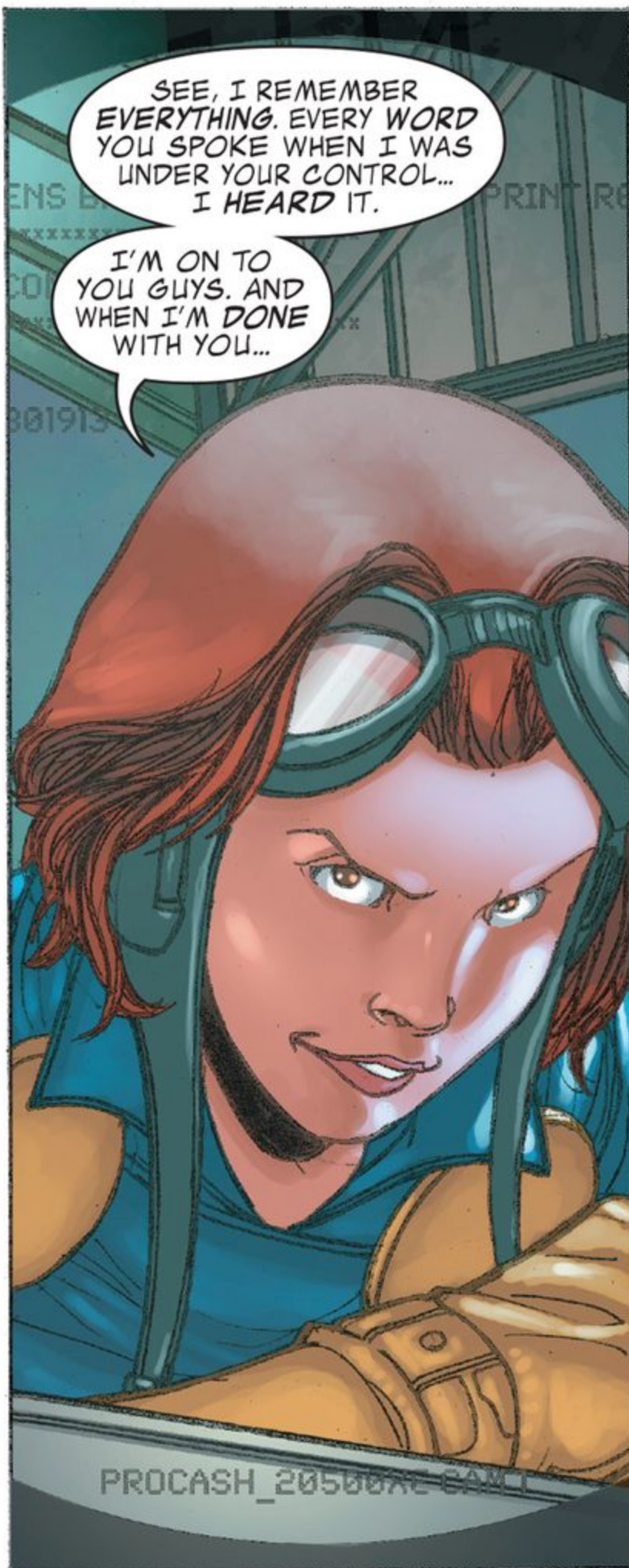
"I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU..."





...AND BY YOU
I DON'T MEAN
BANK SECURITY.

THE PEOPLE
I'M TALKING TO? THEY
KNOW WHO THEY ARE, AND
I KNOW THEY CAN SEE
AND HEAR ME.



SEE, I REMEMBER
EVERYTHING. EVERY WORD
YOU SPOKE WHEN I WAS
UNDER YOUR CONTROL...
I HEARD IT.

I'M ON TO
YOU GUYS. AND
WHEN I'M DONE
WITH YOU...



...YOUR EMPIRE
WON'T BE A SECRET
ANYMORE.



IT FEELS GOOD.

EVEN IF THE SECRET
EMPIRE DOESN'T GET MY
MESSAGE, IT'S GRATIFYING
TO PUT IT OUT THERE.



SO...BACK TO
SQUARE ONE.

NO HOME. NO JOB.
NO FAKE IDENTITY.

NO FAMILY.

BUT I'VE GOT FRIENDS NOW.
AND I'VE GOT A PURPOSE.

THIS IS ME.

RIKKI BARNES.

NOMAD.

A GIRL WITHOUT A WORLD, JUST
DOING HER DAMNEDEST TO DEAL.

AND THAT'S GOOD
ENOUGH FOR ME.

FOR NOW.

